

Just Say—No Thank You

Objective: Given a demonstration and role-playing experiences, the students will practice making positive choices when shopping and analyzing needs versus wants.

Vocabulary

- need (*noun*)
- want (*noun*)

Materials

- needs and wants items (suggested list for class store on page 57)
- overhead projector, chart paper or interactive whiteboard, and appropriate markers
- reusable cloth shopping bags
- tokens or play money, 2 coins of same denomination for each student
- craft materials and supplies for gift ideas (optional)



Preparation

1. Set up a class store. (If you set up more than one store, arrange for parent volunteers, aides, or buddies from an older class to help run the stores.)
2. Arrange an area for role-playing activities.

Opening

1. Review the meaning of the verb *refuse* with the students. Explain that one meaning is to “be unwilling to do something.”
2. Ask, “What are some things that we should refuse to do to our environment to take better care of ourselves and our planet? What are ways we can Go Green?” Based on past lessons, the students might suggest refusing to waste water or paper, and refusing to throw items away that could be repurposed. If not, guide them in that direction.
3. As an example of something simple we can do to be more environmentally friendly, discuss the practice of refusing by simply saying “no thank you” to paper or plastic bags at stores. If appropriate, ask how many students’ families already bring reusable bags to stores.
4. Model refusing, or choosing not to use, extra items at the store. For example: Say, “I’m shopping with Mom for an afterschool snack. She said I could get some fruit. I picked out a bunch of grapes in the produce aisle and put them in a plastic bag. This is the only thing we’re buying today, so we’ll tell the clerk not to double bag these. They are already in a bag.” By refusing extra paper or plastic bags, we save energy and resources.
5. Discuss the new vocabulary words, *need* and *want*. Ask the students what each word means.

A **need** is something you must have to grow to be safe and healthy.
A **want** is something you desire but do not need.

Just Say—No Thank You *(cont.)*

Part 1

1. Give examples of needs and wants. Think aloud to provide the students with an example such as the following: Say, "I **want** to buy some crayons, but I'm not sure that's how I should spend my allowance. Do I really **need** the crayons? I'll look at the ones I have to see if I can still use them. They look okay. If I would like an extra set of crayons to color pictures at home so I don't lose my school crayons, I could buy some at a garage sale or a secondhand store."
2. Present a T-chart on an overhead projector or whiteboard to list needs and wants. Ask students to think of some things they really want. Then ask them to think of something they need in order to grow and be safe and healthy. Add the ideas to the lists.
3. Ask the students to think about the items listed on the Want side of the chart. Are they as important as the items on the Need side of the chart? Allow time to discuss the differences between a need and a want.
4. Sometimes things we want are items we will only use or like for a short time. Think of ways to get these things without buying new items that will soon be of no interest or use. Point out that new items have a lot of packaging. Encourage concepts like sharing, trading, borrowing, buying secondhand items, and bartering.

Need	Want

Part 2

1. Introduce the store and its contents to students. Review the items in the store.

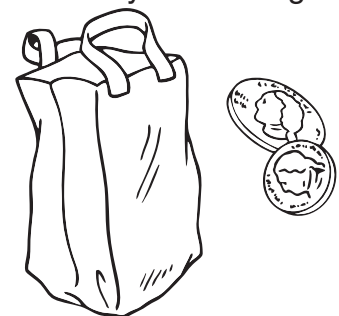
Suggestions for Class Store

- pencils
- erasers
- box of raisins
- reusable water bottles
- shoelaces
- small toys
- rings or bracelets
- mittens
- action figures
- small games
- toothbrush
- hair accessories
- apple
- markers
- stickers

2. Explain that they will take turns shopping for two items. Each student will have the opportunity to purchase one item that he or she wants and another item the student believes that he or she needs.

Note: This activity is for learning purposes only. It is not intended to relate to any reward or consequence systems. You may wish to explain to students that they are trading and they will only have the items during this lesson. Or consider using items already in the classroom.

3. Provide the shoppers with two coins, one for the need and one for the want, and a reusable shopping bag. Provide a shopkeeper with additional plastic bags to offer shoppers.
4. Encourage the shopkeeper to offer shoppers the opportunity for paper or plastic and the shopper to refuse, instead using a reusable, more Earth-friendly bag.





Just Say—No Thank You (cont.)



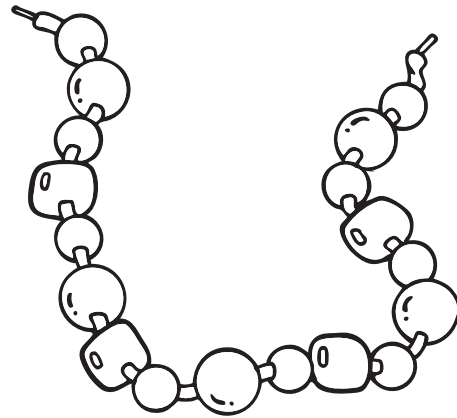
Closing

1. Gather the items from the store and have the class help sort the *needs* from the *wants*.
2. Allow time to discuss and debate the merit of different items.
3. Ask the students to think of ways to politely refuse extra packaging.

Extension

This school term, suggest that the students make a gift for a family member or friend instead of buying something new. Use recycled or leftover (repurposed) materials. To get started, try one of these ideas:

- Use a stray mitten to make a bag. Thread a blunt yarn needle with yarn and weave it in and out around the top of the mitten to make a drawstring bag. You can use the bag to store lunch money or small trinkets, or give it to someone to keep change or small items in.
- Take a shoelace out of an old pair of shoes. Thread it with beads left over from another craft project. Use it as a necklace, hair ornament, or to decorate another gift.
- Use an old sock and decorate it to make a puppet for a younger child.
- Cut out a picture from the front of a used greeting card. Use construction paper to make a frame for the card. Glue a small magnet to the back of the picture to make a refrigerator magnet.



ELL Tip

Have the students take turns role-playing checking out in a store. Have them explain to a store clerk or companion that they would prefer to use the bags they brought and why.